



Application No. 09/886,297

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:  
Listing of Claims:

1-55. (Canceled)

56. (Currently Amended) A wall system, comprising:  
at least a first perimeter framing member configured to hold at least a first wall panel;  
at least a second perimeter framing member configured to hold at least a second wall panel, wherein the first and second perimeter framing members engage one another, wherein at least one of the first and second perimeter framing members defines a recess extending inwardly relative to exterior surfaces of the first and second wall panels, wherein at least one of the first and second perimeter framing members comprises a plurality of drainage holes, wherein the plurality of drainage holes are in fluid communication with a gutter located in an interior region behind the first and second panels and the first and second perimeter framing members, and wherein the gutter collects and provides to the drainage holes moisture located in the interior region for discharge into an exterior environment located exteriorly of the first and second perimeter framing members and first and second wall panels; and

a capillary break positioned on at least one of the first and second perimeter framing members, wherein the capillary break is spaced from the plurality of drainage holes and located ~~interiorly~~exteriorly of the drainage holes and, along with surfaces of the recess, defines a circulating chamber located interiorly of the capillary break, whereby entry of terrestrial fluids into at least one of the plurality of drainage holes is impeded, wherein the circulating chamber is positioned between the drainage holes and the capillary break, wherein a free end of the capillary break is separated from one of the first and second perimeter framing members by a gap through which terrestrial fluids pass to enter the circulating chamber, wherein a lower surface of the circulating chamber is contoured to permit terrestrial fluids collected in the circulating chamber in the form of a liquid to flow as a liquid through the gap along the lower surface for discharge

into the exterior environment, wherein the plurality of drainage holes are located above the free end of the capillary break, and wherein the capillary break extends downwardly from the at least one of the first and second perimeter framing members.

57. (Previously Presented) The wall system of Claim 56, wherein the recess has a downwardly sloped lower surface to permit terrestrial fluids in the circulating chamber to flow along the lower surface, and into the exterior environment and wherein an adjacent edge of a nearest drainage hole is at least about 0.75 inches from a rear surface of the capillary break.

58. (Previously Presented) The wall system of Claim 56, wherein a first space between a free end of the capillary break and an opposing wall of the recess has a first vertical cross-sectional area and a second space between opposing walls of the recess at a point between the capillary break and the plurality of drainage holes has a second vertical cross-sectional area and the second vertical cross sectional area is at least about 150% of the first vertical cross sectional area.

59. (Previously Presented) The wall system of Claim 56, wherein, at any location along the capillary break, an adjacent edge of a nearest drainage hole is at least about 0.25 inches from a rear surface of the capillary break.

60. (Currently Amended) The wall system of Claim 56, wherein the centers of the plurality of drainage holes lie along ~~an common~~ axis and wherein a distance of the drainage holes above a free end of the capillary break is at least about 125% of a distance from the free end of the capillary break to an adjacent, opposing surface of the recess.

61. (Previously Presented) The wall system of Claim 56, wherein a surface of the capillary break adjacent to the plurality of drainage holes is concave and wherein the first and second wall panels each is a composite of metal and plastic.

62. (Previously Presented) The wall system of Claim 56, wherein the plurality of drainage holes are spaced at regular intervals along the at least one of the first and second perimeter framing members, wherein a height of the capillary break ranges from about 125 to about 200% of a distance between a free end of the capillary break and an adjacent, opposing surface of the recess.

63. (Previously Presented) The wall system of Claim 56, wherein the plurality of drainage holes are located on one of the first and second perimeter framing members and the capillary break is located on the other of one of the first and second perimeter framing members.

64. (Previously Presented) The wall system of Claim 59, wherein the openings of the plurality of drainage holes are located on an at least substantially horizontal surface.

65. (Previously Presented) The wall system of Claim 57, wherein the plurality of drainage holes are located on the first perimeter framing member and the capillary break is located on the second perimeter framing member, wherein the openings of the plurality of drainage holes are located on an at least substantially vertical surface, and wherein the openings of the plurality of drainage holes are located above a free end of the capillary break.

66. (Previously Presented) The wall system of Claim 65, wherein the capillary break has a height and is separated by a gap from the first perimeter framing member and the height is at least about 100% of the width of the gap and wherein exterior surfaces of the first and second wall panels are at least substantially parallel and coplanar.

67. (Currently Amended) A wall system, comprising:  
at least a first perimeter framing member configured to hold at least a first wall panel;  
at least a second perimeter framing member configured to hold at least a second wall panel, wherein the first and second perimeter framing members engage one another, wherein at

least one of the first and second perimeter framing members defines a recess extending inwardly relative to exterior surfaces of the first and second wall panels, wherein at least one of the first and second perimeter framing members comprises a plurality of drainage holes, wherein the plurality of drainage holes are in fluid communication with a gutter in an interior region behind the first and second wall panels, the gutter discharging and discharge moisture located in the interior region into an exterior environment located exteriorly of the first and second perimeter framing members and first and second wall panels;

a capillary break positioned on at least one of the first and second perimeter framing members, wherein the capillary break is spaced from the plurality of drainage holes and located between exterior surfaces of the first and second panels and the drainage holes, whereby entry of terrestrial fluids into at least one of the plurality of drainage holes is impeded, wherein the capillary break and walls of the recess define a circulating chamber located in the recess, wherein the circulating chamber is positioned between the drainage holes and the capillary break, wherein the drainage holes and circulating chamber are interiorly of the capillary break, wherein a free end of the capillary break is separated from one of the first and second perimeter framing members by a gap through which terrestrial fluids pass to enter the circulating chamber, wherein a lower surface of the circulating chamber is contoured to permit terrestrial fluids collected in the circulating chamber in the form of a liquid to flow as a liquid along the lower surface and through the gap for discharge into the exterior environment, wherein the plurality of drainage holes are located above the free end of the capillary break, and wherein the capillary break extends downwardly from the at least one of the first and second perimeter framing members.

68. (Previously Amended) The wall system of Claim 67, further comprising a gutter located in the interior region, wherein the gutter collects and provides to the drainage holes moisture located in the interior region for discharge into the exterior environment.

69. (Previously Presented) The wall system of Claim 67, wherein the recess has a sloped lower surface to permit terrestrial fluids in the circulating chamber to flow along the lower surface and into the exterior environment and wherein an adjacent edge of a nearest drainage hole is at least about 0.75 inches from the rear surface of the capillary break.

70. (Previously Presented) The wall system of Claim 67, wherein a first space between a free end of the capillary break and an opposing wall of the recess has a first vertical cross-sectional area and a second space between opposing walls of the recess at a point between the capillary break and the plurality of drainage holes has a second vertical cross-sectional area and the second vertical cross sectional area is at least about 150% of the first vertical cross sectional area.

71. (Previously Presented) The wall system of Claim 67, wherein, at any location along the capillary break, an adjacent edge of a nearest drainage hole is at least about 0.25 inches from a rear surface of the capillary break.

72. (Currently Amended) The wall system of Claim 67, wherein the centers of the plurality of drainage holes lie along an ~~common~~-axis and wherein a distance of the drainage holes above a free end of the capillary break is at least about 125% of a distance from the free end of the capillary break to an adjacent, opposing surface of the recess.

73. (Previously Presented) The wall system of Claim 67, wherein a surface of the capillary break adjacent to the plurality of drainage holes is concave and wherein the first and second wall panels each is a composite of metal and plastic.

74. (Previously Presented) The wall system of Claim 67, wherein the plurality of drainage holes are spaced at regular intervals along the at least one of the first and second perimeter framing members, wherein a height of the capillary break ranges from about 125 to about 200% of a distance between a free end of the capillary break and an adjacent, opposing surface of the recess.

75. (Previously Presented) The wall system of Claim 67, wherein the plurality of drainage holes are located on one of the first and second perimeter framing members and the capillary break is located on the other of one of the first and second perimeter framing members.

76. (Previously Presented) The wall system of Claim 71, wherein the openings of the plurality of drainage holes are located on an at least substantially horizontal surface.

77. (Previously Presented) The wall system of Claim 69, wherein the plurality of drainage holes are located on the first perimeter framing member and the capillary break is located on the second perimeter framing member, wherein the openings of the plurality of drainage holes are located on an at least substantially vertical surface, and wherein the openings of the plurality of drainage holes are located above a free end of the capillary break.

78. (Previously Presented) The wall system of Claim 77, wherein the capillary break has a height and is separated by a gap from the first perimeter framing member and the height is at least about 100% of the width of the gap and wherein exterior surfaces of the first and second wall panels are at least substantially parallel and coplanar.

79. (Currently Amended) A wall system, comprising:

at least a first perimeter framing member configured to hold opposing interior and exterior surfaces of at least a first wall panel;

at least a second perimeter framing member configured to hold opposing interior and exterior surfaces of at least a second wall panel, wherein the first and second perimeter framing members engage one another, wherein at least one of the first and second perimeter framing members defines a recess relative to exterior surfaces of the first and second wall panels, wherein at least one of the first and second perimeter framing members comprises a plurality of drainage holes, wherein the plurality of drainage holes are in fluid communication with a gutter located in an interior region behind the first and second panels and the first and second perimeter framing members, and wherein the gutter collects and provides to the drainage holes moisture located in the interior region for discharge into an exterior environment located exteriorly of the first and second perimeter framing members and first and second wall panels; and

capillary break means positioned on at least one of the first and second perimeter framing members for redirecting flow of terrestrial fluids, wherein the capillary break is located exteriorly of and spaced from the plurality of drainage holes and, along with surfaces of the recess, defines a circulating chamber operable to impede entry of terrestrial fluids into the interior region, the circulating chamber being located interiorly of the capillary break means, wherein the circulating chamber is positioned between the capillary break means and the drainage holes, wherein a free end of the capillary break means is separated from one of the first and second perimeter framing members by a gap through which terrestrial fluids pass to enter the circulating chamber and wherein a lower surface of the circulating chamber is contoured to permit terrestrial fluids collected in the circulating chamber in the form of a liquid to flow, as a liquid, along the lower surface and through the gap for discharge into the exterior environment, wherein the plurality of drainage holes are located above the free end of the capillary break means, and wherein the capillary break means extends downwardly from the at least one of the first and second perimeter framing members.

80. (Currently Amended) The wall system of Claim 79, wherein the gutter interior is in fluid communication with the interior region, wherein the recess has an inclined lower surface to permit terrestrial fluids in the circulating chamber to flow along the lower surface and into the exterior environment and wherein an adjacent edge of a nearest drainage hole is at least about 0.75 inches from the rear surface of the capillary break means.

81. (Previously Presented) The wall system of Claim 79, wherein a first space between a free end of the capillary break means and an opposing wall of the recess has a first vertical cross-sectional area and a second space between opposing walls of the recess at a point between the capillary break means and the plurality of drainage holes has a second vertical cross-sectional area and the second vertical cross sectional area is at least about 150% of the first vertical cross sectional area.

82. (Previously Presented) The wall system of Claim 79, wherein, at any location along the capillary break means, an adjacent edge of a nearest drainage hole is at least about 0.25 inches from a rear surface of the capillary break.

83. (Currently Amended) The wall system of Claim 79, wherein the centers of the plurality of drainage holes lie along an ~~common~~ axis and wherein a distance of the drainage holes above a free end of the capillary break means is at least about 125% of a distance from the free end of the capillary break means to an adjacent, opposing surface of the recess.

84. (Previously Presented) The wall system of Claim 79, wherein a surface of the capillary break means adjacent to the plurality of drainage holes is concave and wherein the first and second wall panels each is a composite of metal and plastic.



85. (Previously Presented) The wall system of Claim 79, wherein the plurality of drainage holes are spaced at regular intervals along the at least one of the first and second perimeter framing members, wherein a height of the capillary break means ranges from about 125 to about 200% of a distance between a free end of the capillary break means and an adjacent, opposing surface of the recess.

86. (Previously Presented) The wall system of Claim 79, wherein the plurality of drainage holes are located on one of the first and second perimeter framing members and the capillary break means is located on the other of one of the first and second perimeter framing members.

87. (Previously Presented) The wall system of Claim 82, wherein the openings of the plurality of drainage holes are located on an at least substantially horizontal surface.

88. (Previously Presented) The wall system of Claim 80, wherein the plurality of drainage holes are located on the first perimeter framing member and the capillary break means is located on the second perimeter framing member, wherein the openings of the plurality of drainage holes are located on an at least substantially vertical surface, and wherein the openings of the plurality of drainage holes are located above a free end of the capillary break means.

89. (Previously Presented) The wall system of Claim 88, wherein the capillary break means has a height and is separated by a gap from the first perimeter framing member and the height is at least about 100% of the width of the gap and wherein exterior surfaces of the first and second wall panels are at least substantially parallel and coplanar.

90-103. (Canceled)

104. (Currently Amended) The wall system of Claim 56, wherein the capillary break and drainage holes are located on ~~a common~~ the same side of the circulating chamber.

105. (Previously Presented) The wall system of Claim 67, wherein the lower surface of the circulating chamber is free of drainage holes.

106. (Previously Presented) The wall system of Claim 67, wherein at least most of the collected terrestrial fluids pass along the lower surface, through the gap, and into the terrestrial environment.

107. (Currently Amended) The wall system of Claim 106, wherein the at least most of the collected terrestrial fluids do not pass through a gutter ~~during the passing step~~ when the at least most of the collected terrestrial fluids pass along the lower surface, through the gap, and into the terrestrial environment.

108. (Currently Amended) The wall system of Claim 67, wherein the capillary break and drainage holes are located on ~~a common~~ the same side of the circulating chamber.

109. (Previously Presented) The wall system of Claim 79, wherein the lower surface of the circulating chamber is free of drainage holes.

110. (Previously Presented) The wall system of Claim 79, wherein at least most of the collected terrestrial fluids pass along the lower surface, through the gap, and into the terrestrial environment.

111. (Currently Amended) The wall system of Claim 110, wherein the at least most of the collected terrestrial fluids do not pass through a gutter ~~during the passing step~~when the at most of the collected terrestrial fluids pass along the lower surface, through the gap, and into the terrestrial environment.

112. (Currently Amended) The wall system of Claim 79, wherein the capillary break means and drainage holes are located on ~~a common~~the same side of the circulating chamber.

113. (Currently Amended) A wall system, comprising:  
at least a first perimeter framing member configured to hold at least a first wall panel;  
at least a second perimeter framing member configured to hold at least a second wall panel, wherein the first and second perimeter framing members engage one another, wherein at least one of the first and second perimeter framing members defines a recess extending inwardly relative to exterior surfaces of the first and second wall panels, wherein at least one of the first and second perimeter framing members comprises a plurality of drainage holes, wherein the plurality of drainage holes are in fluid communication with a gutter located in an interior region behind the first and second panels and the first and second perimeter framing members, and wherein the gutter collects and provides to the drainage holes moisture located in the interior region for discharge into an exterior environment located exteriorly of the first and second perimeter framing members and first and second wall panels; and

a capillary break positioned on at least one of the first and second perimeter framing members, wherein the capillary break is spaced from the plurality of drainage holes and, along with surfaces of the recess, defines a circulating chamber, whereby entry of terrestrial fluids into at least one of the plurality of drainage holes is impeded, wherein the circulating chamber is positioned between the drainage holes and the capillary break, wherein a free end of the capillary break is separated from one of the first and second perimeter framing members by a gap through which terrestrial fluids pass to enter the circulating chamber, wherein a lower surface of the circulating chamber is contoured to permit terrestrial fluids collected in the circulating chamber

to flow through the gap along the lower surface for discharge into the exterior environment, wherein the plurality of drainage holes are located above the free end of the capillary break, wherein the capillary break extends downwardly from the at least one of the first and second perimeter framing members, wherein the recess has a downwardly sloped lower surface to permit terrestrial fluids in the circulating chamber to flow along the lower surface, and into the exterior environment, wherein an adjacent edge of a nearest drainage hole is at least about 0.75 inches from a rear surface of the capillary break, wherein the plurality of drainage holes are located on the first perimeter framing member and the capillary break is located on the second perimeter framing member, wherein the openings of the plurality of drainage holes are located on an at least substantially vertical surface, and wherein the openings of the plurality of drainage holes are located above a free end of the capillary break.

114. (Currently Amended) The wall system of Claim 113, wherein an interior of the gutter is in fluid communication with the interior region, wherein the capillary break has a height and is separated by a gap from the first perimeter framing member and the height is at least about 100% of the width of the gap and wherein exterior surfaces of the first and second wall panels are at least substantially parallel and coplanar.

115. (Currently Amended) A wall system, comprising:  
at least a first perimeter framing member configured to hold at least a first wall panel;  
at least a second perimeter framing member configured to hold at least a second wall panel, wherein the first and second perimeter framing members engage one another, wherein at least one of the first and second perimeter framing members defines a recess extending inwardly relative to exterior surfaces of the first and second wall panels, wherein at least one of the first and second perimeter framing members comprises a plurality of drainage holes, wherein the plurality of drainage holes are in fluid communication with a gutter in an interior region behind the first and second wall panels, the gutter discharging and discharge moisture located in the

interior region into an exterior environment located exteriorly of the first and second perimeter framing members and first and second wall panels; and

a capillary break positioned on at least one of the first and second perimeter framing members, wherein the capillary break is spaced from the plurality of drainage holes and located between exterior surfaces of the first and second panels and the drainage holes, whereby entry of terrestrial fluids into at least one of the plurality of drainage holes is impeded, wherein the circulating chamber is positioned between the drainage holes and the capillary break, wherein the capillary break and walls of the recess define a circulating chamber located in the recess, wherein a free end of the capillary break is separated from one of the first and second perimeter framing members by a gap through which terrestrial fluids pass to enter the circulating chamber, wherein a lower surface of the circulating chamber is contoured to permit terrestrial fluids collected in the circulating chamber to flow along the lower surface and through the gap for discharge into the exterior environment, wherein the plurality of drainage holes are located above the free end of the capillary break, wherein the capillary break extends downwardly from the at least one of the first and second perimeter framing members, wherein the capillary break is positioned between an opening of the recess on the one hand and the drainage holes and circulating chamber on the other hand, and wherein the plurality of drainage holes are located on one of the first and second perimeter framing members and the capillary break is located on the other of one of the first and second perimeter framing members.

116. (Currently Amended) A wall system, comprising:

at least a first perimeter framing member configured to hold at least a first wall panel;

at least a second perimeter framing member configured to hold at least a second wall panel, wherein the first and second perimeter framing members engage one another, wherein at least one of the first and second perimeter framing members defines a recess extending inwardly relative to exterior surfaces of the first and second wall panels, wherein at least one of the first and second perimeter framing members comprises a plurality of drainage holes, wherein the plurality of drainage holes are in fluid communication with a gutter in an interior region behind

the first and second wall panels, the gutter discharging and discharge moisture located in the interior region into an exterior environment located exteriorly of the first and second perimeter framing members and first and second wall panels; and

a capillary break positioned on at least one of the first and second perimeter framing members, wherein the capillary break is spaced from the plurality of drainage holes and located between exterior surfaces of the first and second panels and the drainage holes, whereby entry of terrestrial fluids into at least one of the plurality of drainage holes is impeded, wherein the capillary break and walls of the recess define a circulating chamber located in the recess, wherein the circulating chamber is positioned between the drainage holes and the capillary break, wherein a free end of the capillary break is separated from one of the first and second perimeter framing members by a gap through which terrestrial fluids pass to enter the circulating chamber, wherein a lower surface of the circulating chamber is contoured to permit terrestrial fluids collected in the circulating chamber to flow along the lower surface and through the gap for discharge into the exterior environment, wherein the plurality of drainage holes are located above the free end of the capillary break, wherein the capillary break extends downwardly from the at least one of the first and second perimeter framing members, wherein the recess has a sloped lower surface to permit terrestrial fluids in the circulating chamber to flow along the lower surface and into the exterior environment and wherein an adjacent edge of a nearest drainage hole is at least about 0.75 inches from the rear surface of the capillary break, wherein the plurality of drainage holes are located on the first perimeter framing member and the capillary break is located on the second perimeter framing member, wherein the openings of the plurality of drainage holes are located on an at least substantially vertical surface, and wherein the openings of the plurality of drainage holes are located above a free end of the capillary break.

117. (Currently Amended) The wall system of Claim 116, wherein an interior of the gutter is in fluid communication with the interior region, wherein the capillary break has a height and is separated by a gap from the first perimeter framing member and the height is at least about 100% of the width of the gap and wherein exterior surfaces of the first and second wall panels are at least substantially parallel and coplanar.

118. (Currently Amended) A wall system, comprising:  
at least a first perimeter framing member configured to hold opposing interior and exterior surfaces of at least a first wall panel;  
at least a second perimeter framing member configured to hold opposing interior and exterior surfaces of at least a second wall panel, wherein the first and second perimeter framing members engage one another, wherein at least one of the first and second perimeter framing members defines a recess relative to exterior surfaces of the first and second wall panels, wherein at least one of the first and second perimeter framing members comprises a plurality of drainage holes, wherein the plurality of drainage holes are in fluid communication with a gutter located in an interior region behind the first and second panels and the first and second perimeter framing members, and wherein the gutter collects and provides to the drainage holes moisture located in the interior region for discharge into an exterior environment located exteriorly of the first and second perimeter framing members and first and second wall panels; and

capillary break means positioned on at least one of the first and second perimeter framing members for redirecting flow of terrestrial fluids, wherein the capillary break means is spaced from the plurality of drainage holes and, along with surfaces of the recess, defines a circulating chamber operable to impede entry of terrestrial fluids into the interior region, wherein the circulating chamber is positioned between the capillary break means and the drainage holes, wherein a free end of the capillary break means is separated from one of the first and second perimeter framing members by a gap through which terrestrial fluids pass to enter the circulating chamber and wherein a lower surface of the circulating chamber is contoured to permit terrestrial fluids collected in the circulating chamber to flow along the lower surface and through the gap

for discharge into the exterior environment, wherein the plurality of drainage holes are located above the free end of the capillary break means, wherein the capillary break means extends downwardly from the at least one of the first and second perimeter framing members, wherein the capillary break is positioned between an opening of the recess on the one hand and the drainage holes and circulating chamber on the other hand, and wherein the plurality of drainage holes are located on one of the first and second perimeter framing members and the capillary break means is located on the other of one of the first and second perimeter framing members.

119. (Currently Amended) A wall system, comprising:

at least a first perimeter framing member configured to hold opposing interior and exterior surfaces of at least a first wall panel;

at least a second perimeter framing member configured to hold opposing interior and exterior surfaces of at least a second wall panel, wherein the first and second perimeter framing members engage one another, wherein at least one of the first and second perimeter framing members defines a recess relative to exterior surfaces of the first and second wall panels, wherein at least one of the first and second perimeter framing members comprises a plurality of drainage holes, wherein the plurality of drainage holes are in fluid communication with a gutter located in an interior region behind the first and second panels and the first and second perimeter framing members, and wherein the gutter collects and provides to the drainage holes moisture located in the interior region for discharge into an exterior environment located exteriorly of the first and second perimeter framing members and first and second wall panels; and

capillary break means positioned on at least one of the first and second perimeter framing members for redirecting flow of terrestrial fluids, wherein the capillary break means is spaced from the plurality of drainage holes and, along with surfaces of the recess, defines a circulating chamber operable to impede entry of terrestrial fluids into the interior region, wherein the circulating chamber is positioned between the capillary break means and the drainage holes, wherein a free end of the capillary break means is separated from one of the first and second perimeter framing members by a gap through which terrestrial fluids pass to enter the circulating



chamber and wherein a lower surface of the circulating chamber is contoured to permit terrestrial fluids collected in the circulating chamber to flow along the lower surface and through the gap for discharge into the exterior environment, wherein the plurality of drainage holes are located above the free end of the capillary break means, wherein the capillary break means extends downwardly from the at least one of the first and second perimeter framing members, wherein the recess has an inclined lower surface to permit terrestrial fluids in the circulating chamber to flow along the lower surface and into the exterior environment, wherein an adjacent edge of a nearest drainage hole is at least about 0.75 inches from the rear surface of the capillary break means, wherein the plurality of drainage holes are located on the first perimeter framing member and the capillary break means is located on the second perimeter framing member, wherein the openings of the plurality of drainage holes are located on an at least substantially vertical surface, and wherein the openings of the plurality of drainage holes are located above a free end of the capillary break means.

120. (Currently Amended) The wall system of Claim 119, wherein an interior of the gutter is in fluid communication with the interior region, wherein the capillary break means has a height and is separated by a gap from the first perimeter framing member and the height is at least about 100% of the width of the gap and wherein exterior surfaces of the first and second wall panels are at least substantially parallel and coplanar.

121. (New) The wall system of claim 56, wherein a side of the gutter is open to the interior region.

122. (New) The wall system of claim 67, wherein a side of the gutter is open to the interior region.